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Macroeconomic policy questions

Sustainable development and international economic cooperation

Globalization and interdependence

Letter dated 19 October 2000 from the Permanent Representatives of Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement by the heads of State of the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan concerning the establishment of the Eurasian Economic Community, adopted on 10 October 2000 in the city of Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the fifty-fifth session of General Assembly, under agenda items 92, 94 and 100.

(*Signed*) S. S. **Ling**
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Belarus to the United Nations

(*Signed*) M. B. **Jarbussynova**
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations

(*Signed*) E. S. **Ibraimova**
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the
Kyrgyz Republic to the United Nations

(*Signed*) S. V. **Lavrov**
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the
Russian Federation to the United Nations

(*Signed*) R. K. **Alimov**
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Tajikistan to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 19 October 2000 from the Permanent Representatives of Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the heads of State of the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan concerning the establishment of the Eurasian Economic Community

We, the heads of State of the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan, announce the establishment of an international organization, the "Eurasian Economic Community".

This step is a demonstration of the united political will of the leaders of the five States to move even more resolutely along the path of wide-ranging mutual cooperation with a view to achieving true integration.

The cooperation of our countries in the trade and economic sphere has already reached the stage where tariff and quantitative restrictions in mutual trade have been repealed, common customs tariffs have been introduced for most categories of goods, coordinated measures of non-tariff regulation are being implemented, common trade regimes are being set up in relation to third countries and the establishment of a single customs territory has begun. In addition, a number of specific joint steps have been taken in the humanitarian sphere, which are making it possible to meet more fully the needs of the nationals of our countries in the areas of education, culture, health care and the protection of social rights.

At the same time, there is a need for the closer alignment and unification of national legislation and the implementation of measures aimed at increasing the combined economic potential of our countries and enhancing the coordinated structural reorganization of their economies.

The logic of the progress of the five States towards the objectives laid down in the agreements which they have signed — the completion of the formation of a customs union and the establishment of a single economic space — requires new forms and mechanisms of cooperation. It is these objectives which the Community is designed to serve.

The activities of the Community will aim, in particular, to meet the following goals:

(a) In the sphere of foreign trade and customs policy:

To complete the establishment of a full-scale free trade regime and the formation of a single customs tariff and a single system of measures for non-tariff regulation.

To introduce a coordinated system of preferences.

To establish common rules for trade in goods and services and their access to domestic markets.

To formulate a coordinated position of the States members in relations with the World Trade Organization and other international economic organizations.

To introduce a unified system for currency regulation and currency control.

To establish a mechanism for the effective operation of payments and settlements systems.

To establish a common unified system of customs regulation, within which unified rules of customs registration and customs control are in operation and single customs regimes are applied.

To ensure economic security on the external borders of the Community and the control of smuggling and other types of customs violations.

To strengthen and reorganize the external borders of the Community.

(b) In the sphere of economic policy:

To carry out a coordinated structural reorganization of economies.

To formulate and implement joint socio-economic development programmes.

To establish a common payments system.

To ensure the coordination of currency and financial systems.

To establish equal conditions for industrial and business activity.

To set up a common market for transport services and a single transport system.

To set up a common energy market.

To organize joint research and development in priority areas of science and technology.

To establish equal conditions for the access of foreign investments to the markets of the parties.

To establish a unified system for the legal regulation, formation and activities of financial and industrial groups on a multilateral and bilateral basis.

(c) In the social and humanitarian sphere:

To harmonize national systems of education and the development of science and culture.

To harmonize national systems for ensuring minimum social standards.

To provide equal rights to nationals of States members of the Community in receiving education and medical care throughout its territory.

(d) In the legal sphere:

To align and harmonize national legislation.

To establish a mechanism for coordinating the adoption of national legislative and other regulatory instruments of member States on issues affecting the obligations of the parties within the framework of the Community.

To synchronize the time limits for the completion of internal formalities for treaties concluded within the framework of the Community.

To ensure the cooperation of the legal systems of the States parties with a view to establishing a common legal space within the Community.

We, the heads of the five States, express our conviction that the efforts which are being undertaken to further intensify cooperation in the economic and humanitarian spheres will be supported by our peoples and will contribute to accelerating the rates of economic development of our countries.

(*Signed*) Alyaksandr **Lukashenka**
President of the Republic of Belarus

(*Signed*) Nursultan A. **Nazarbaev**
President of the Republic of Kazakhstan

(*Signed*) A. **Akayev**
President of the Kyrgyz Republic

(*Signed*) Vladimir V. **Putin**
President of the Russian Federation

(*Signed*) Emomali **Rakhmonov**
President of the Republic of Tajikistan